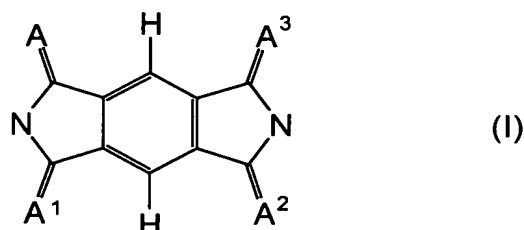


Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A compound of the general formula (I)



wherein A ~~represents the~~ is a divalent radical of a cyclic compound of the general formula (II)

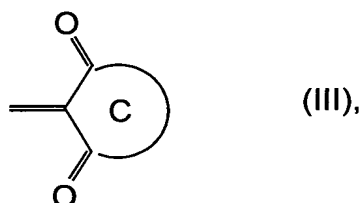


~~where~~ wherein B is an alicyclic or heterocyclic group, and

A¹, A² and A³ are the same or different and ~~have the meaning of are~~ are A or represent =NR, ~~where~~ wherein R is hydrogen, unsubstituted phenyl, phenyl substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, R⁰, OR⁰, SR⁰, NH₂, NHR⁰, NR⁰₂, NO₂, COOH, COOR⁰, CONH₂, CONHR⁰, CONR⁰₂, CN, SO₃H, SO₂(OR⁰), and SO₂R⁰, ~~or phenyl substituted by a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; and~~ NH₂, NHR⁰, NR⁰₂, NHCONH₂ or NHCONHR⁰, where R⁰ is C₁-C₁₈-alkyl or C₆-C₂₄-aryl.

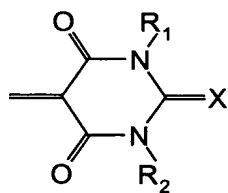
- 2) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein one of A¹, A² and A³ ~~has the meaning of~~ is A.

- 3) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein two of A¹, A² and A³ ~~have the meaning of~~ are A.
- 4) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein A¹, A² and A³ ~~have the meaning of~~ are A.
- 5) (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein A ~~represents the~~ is a divalent radical of a cyclic compound of the general formula (III)

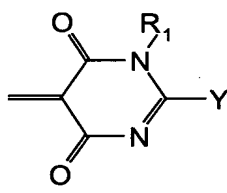


~~where~~ wherein C is an alicyclic or heterocyclic group.

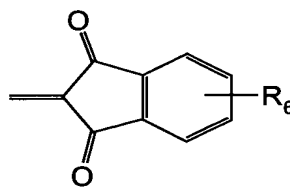
- 6) (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein A is a divalent radical of the formulae (a) to (g)



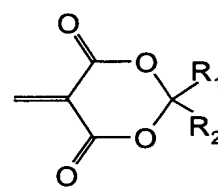
(a)



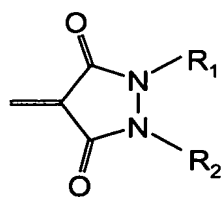
(b)



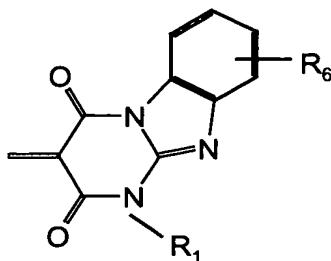
(c)



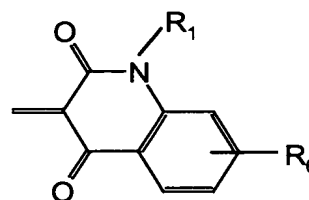
(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)

~~where~~ wherein R_1 and R_2 independently represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl, C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl, C_6 - C_{24} -aryl, C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl- $(C_6$ - C_{10} -aryl), a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, $-(CH_2)_n-COR_3$ or $-(CH_2)_m-OR_4$,

~~where~~ wherein R_3 is hydroxyl, amino or unsubstituted or ~~singly or multiply~~ at least singularly hydroxyl- or amino-substituted C_1 - C_{25} -alkoxy, C_1 - C_{25} -alkylamino, $di(C_1$ - C_{25} -alkyl)amino, C_6 - C_{24} -arylamino, $di(C_6$ - C_{24} -aryl)amino, C_1 - C_{25} -alkyl- $(C_6$ - C_{10} -aryl)amino or C_2 - C_{24} -alkenyloxy;

R_4 is hydrogen or $-CO-(C_1$ - C_{25} -alkyl), and

n and m are independently an integer from 0 to 6,

and ~~where~~ wherein a C-C unit in R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 ~~may also be~~ is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C;

X is =O, =S or =NR₅, where R_5 ~~has the same meaning as~~ is R_1 or R_2 ;

Y is hydrogen, R_2 , OR_2 , SR_2 , $NHCN$ or NR_2R_5 ;

and R_6 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, R_2 , OR_2 , SR_2 , NR_2R_5 , NO_2 , $SO_2(OR_2)$, SO_2R_2 , $SO_2NR_2R_5$ or $PO_2(OR_2)$.

7) (Original) The compound according to claim 6 wherein

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl, C_5 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, C_6 - C_{10} -aryl, benzyl, pyridyl, pyrrol, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, hydroxycarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkoxycarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, aminocarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkylaminocarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, C_6 - C_{10} -arylamino carbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, $di(C_1$ - C_{18} -alkyl)aminocarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl- C_6 - C_{10} -arylamino carbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl or $di(C_6$ - C_{10} -aryl)aminocarbonyl- C_0 - C_6 -alkyl.

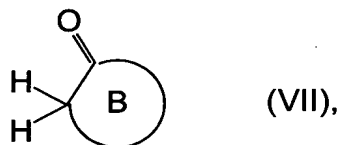
8) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~ wherein R_3 is hydroxyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkoxy, C_1 - C_{18} -alkylamino, di(C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl)amino, benzylamino, C_6 - C_{10} -aryl amino, di(C_6 - C_{10} -aryl)amino or (C_2 - C_{18})-alkenyloxy.

9) (Currently Amended) The compound according to ~~one or more of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, wherein

R_6 is hydrogen, Cl, Br, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl, C_5 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, benzyl, C_6 - C_{10} -aryl, pyridyl, pyrrol, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkoxy, C_6 - C_{10} -aryloxy, C_1 - C_{18} -alkylthio, C_6 - C_{10} -arylthio, C_1 - C_{18} -alkylamino, C_6 - C_{10} -aryl amino, di(C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl)amino, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl- C_6 - C_{10} -aryl amino, di(C_6 - C_{10} -aryl)amino, SO_3H , C_1 - C_{18} -alkoxysulfonyl, C_1 - C_{18} -alkylsulfonyl or di(C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl)aminosulfonyl.

10) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to at least one of claims 1 to 9, which comprises claim 1, comprising the steps of reacting 1,2,4,5-tetracyanobenzene with at least 2 equivalents of at least one of ammonia and/or or alkoxides MOR_7 ,

~~where~~ wherein M is sodium or potassium, R_7 is C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl or $-(CH_2)_m-OH$ and m is an integer from 1 to 6, and a C-C unit ~~may also be~~ is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C, in a solvent or solvent mixture under basic to neutral conditions at a temperature in the range from -20 to 120°C to form tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles, and ~~which are subsequently,~~ reacting the tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles with at least 1 equivalent of a cyclic compound of the formula (VII) in a solvent or solvent mixture under neutral to acidic conditions, ~~reacted with at least 1 equivalent of a cyclic compound of the formula (VII)~~



and if appropriate optionally not more than 3 equivalents of H_2NR .

11) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a~~ A method of using a compound according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 9 for claim 1~~ comprising the step of dyeing or pigmenting an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight ~~materials~~ material with the compound.

12) (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 11 ~~as colorants for wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of~~ electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic ~~and developers, for color filters, for electronic inks and also in optical layers for optical data storage.~~

13) (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material and at least one of the ~~compounds defined in one or more of claims 1 to 9~~ compound as claimed in claim 1, in an amount from 0.005% to 70% by weight, based on the ~~organic or inorganic~~ material.

14) (New) A composition comprising an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material and at least one of the compound as claimed in claim 1.

15) (New) The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the composition is an electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, color filter, electronic ink or an optical layer for optical data storage.